

HF Happenings



Volume 14, Issue 11

No 687

the week of 10 January 2016

Go Green for St Patrick's Day Award

We are encouraging amateurs worldwide to get on air and go green for St Patrick's Day on 17 March with the annual St Patrick's Day Award.

The sole aim of this one-day award is to enjoy the festivities and connect with other stations across the world.

This is the third year that we have run the award which is open to everyone in the amateur community.

If you wish to find out more details or to register a station for the day, then go to <http://stpatrickaward.webs.com/>

South African Radio League QRP Contest

The QRP contests are intended to be fun activities to promote QRP operation between radio amateurs. Using homebuilt equipment or operating as a portable/field station and using temporary antennas is encouraged, but is not a requirement.

The Summer QRP contest runs from 12:00 to 15:00 UTC on Saturday 23 January 2016 using SSB and CW with 5 watts (PEP) output or less. There are no antenna restrictions and a station may be worked once per band per mode.

The first hour is limited to the 40 m band only, the remaining two hours the contestants are free to use any HF (non-WARC) band as they see fit. Comply with the contest-preferred segments as detailed in the general rules. It would be advantageous to use the standard QRP calling frequencies as the starting point.

The exchange is a RS or RST report and your grid locator. Please consider exchanging realistic RS(T) signal reports. Please use the full 6-character grid locator.

e.g. KG43eu. If the station's grid locator is unknown, then use some other means that identifies the station's location: e.g. the name of the closest town or city e.g. Port Alfred or 25 km NW of Pofadder. With DX contacts the locator information can be omitted, the RS(T) will suffice as the minimum required exchange as per the general rules

Each contact counts 1 point. Each South African call area 0 through 9 counts as a multiplier and each DXCC country worked counts as a multiplier. The station type multiplier are x 1 - for home stations; x 2 - for portable stations and x 3 - for ultra light portable field stations. The definitions listed in the general section of the South African Radio League rules define the above stations types accurately. A mobile station will be treated as a field station. A portable station not meeting the requirements as a field station will be treated as a home station. Ultra light portable field station must comply with all the field station criteria, but the operator must carry the entire station, antenna included to the operating site. The distance carried must not be less than 1 km.

Score = (QSO points) x (Prefix multiplier) x (Station multiplier)

Logs, in ADIF, Cabrillo or MS Excel format and labelled "call sign QRP Contest," shall be submitted by 31 January 2016 by e-mail to contest@sarl.org.za. Note: A photo(s) of the station operating (JPG format) MUST accompany every log entry.

CQ World Wide Participants Favour Limiting Operating Time to Less Than 48 Hours

According to Part 2 of the 2015 CQ World Wide Contests survey results, con-



South African Radio League * Suid-Afrikaanse Radioliga
Member Society of the International Amateur Radio Union since 1925



testers want to see a time-limited category for single operators

<http://cqww.com/blog/2015-cq-ww-survey-results-part-2/>



In September 2015, the CQ WW Contest Committee surveyed everyone who had submitted a log in the 2014 CQ WW SSB and CW events, and issued a public invitation on the cq-contest e-mail reflector. CQ WW Contest Director Randy Thompson, K5ZD, said the committee received 5 117 responses from contest operators around the world to Part 2 of the survey, which addressed possible rule changes. A vast majority of respondents answered "yes" to the question, "Do you support limiting the operating time of single operator entrants to less than 48 hours?" Currently, single operators may operate for the entire 48-hour contest period.

"This question was designed to determine how broad the interest in a time-limited category might be," Thompson said in the survey report. "We were surprised at the high level of support for a time limit. It was even more surprising to see that the majority of support was coming from Europe. Even more interesting was that it was serious competitors who wanted this change. While older ages were more in favour, the results were fairly consistent across all."

According to the survey, 2 775 respondents answered "yes," and 1 638 said "no," while 694 offered no opinion.

A review of CQ World Wide entries for 2015 showed that approximately 90 percent of SSB operators stay in the chair for fewer than 30 hours, while some 90 percent of CW entrants operate fewer than 35 hours.

January 2016

- 1 – Download your copy of the 2016 SARL Blue Book
- 1 – New Years day; [start of the 2016 CQ Marathon](#)
- 3 – [ARRL Kids Day](#)
- 9 and 10 – [Hunting Lions in the Air](#)
- 10 – [SARL Youth Net](#)
- 13 – All schools open
- 15 to 17 – [PEARS VHF/UHF Contest](#)
- 23 – [Summer QRP Contest](#)
- 23 and 24 – [UK/EI DX CW Contest](#)
- 28 to 31 – Up the Creek Music Festival, Swellendam
- 31 – Groote Post Country Market, Darling

February

- 2 – World Wetland's Day
- 7 – [AWA CW Activity Day](#)
- 10 – Ash Wednesday
- 13 and 14 – [SARL National Field Day; CQ WW WPX RTTY Contest](#)
- 14 – [SARL Youth Net at 15:00 UTC on 7 070](#); Valentine's Day
- 20 – [SARL Youth Sprint](#)
- 22 – closing date for March Radio ZS articles
- 27 – West Rand ARC Flea Market
- 27 – National Milk Tart Day
- 28 – [SARL Digital Contest](#)

The survey results also suggested that a plurality, nearly one-half, of contesters responding would prefer to maintain the separate Single Operator and Single Operator Assisted categories, rather than combining them into one entry category.

"Official" P5/3Z9DX North Korea Activation now set for this summer (winter in the Southern Hemisphere)

Following an unexpected "demonstration" operation from North Korea, officially the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), just before Christmas, Polish DXer Dom Grzyb, 3Z9DX, now expects to be back in the DPRK, the most-wanted DXCC entity - for his "official" activation by late this summer, according to *The Daily DX*. He initially had anticipated returning this month or next.



Dom Grzyb, 3Z9DX, in Pyongyang, DPRK.

P5/3Z9DX showed up on the air from the most-wanted DXCC entity on 20 and 21 December to demonstrate Amateur Radio for North Korean officials. Over the course of that activation, the first in more than a decade, P5/3Z9DX made nearly 785 SSB contacts, most of them on 15 metres. Nearly 600 of the contacts were with stations in Asia; P5/3Z9DX worked just 26 stations in North America. He has posted his log on ClubLog.

Dom recently contacted *The Daily DX* Editor Bernie McClenny, W3UR, to update his situation. During his visit, authorities were friendly and polite, McClenny reported, noting that he was also surprised that they allowed him to operate in December. P5/3Z9DX was severely hampered by extremely high noise levels on all HF bands, not to mention a geomagnetic storm. Noise, he said in a video posted on his website, made it "almost impossible" to copy weaker signals in Pyongyang

<http://k38dom0.wix.com/3z9dx#!video/o9ero>.

When he goes back to the DPRK this summer, he will be operating from a far quieter location in a rural area, Dom told *The Daily DX*. While operating from North Korea in December, P5/3Z9DX was running 100 W to a vertical antenna mounted on a metal fence post some 2,1 m above the ground among government high-rise buildings. His equipment was left behind in Pyongyang, as was agreed to before his December visit. The P5/3Z9DX preview was the first activa-

tion from North Korea since the 2001/2002 operation by Ed Giorgadze, 4L4FN.

DXCC Approved Operations

Sharon Taratula, ARRL Awards Branch Manager, reports that the following operations are approved for DXCC credit:
3B7FA - 2015 Operation
D2FJZ - 2012 and 2015 Operations
TN/CT1FJZ - 2015 Operation

NCDXF Beacon Shuffle

If you have any automated systems or software that listen for the NCDXF Beacons, you will want to update the call sign list, as there are some recent changes <http://www.ncdxf.org/pages/beacons.html>.

Please refer to this message from Bob, N6TV, for the details on how to listen for the new beacon, KH6RS replacing KH6WO <http://dayton.contesting.com/pipermail/skimmentalk/2016-January/001642.html>.

The Aggregator program, which feeds spots to the RBN server, will be updated upon the return of the program author, W3OA, from the K5P Palmyra DXpedition, enabling RBN spots of the new beacon.

HF Skimmer

How many spots can an HF Skimmer skim if an HF Skimmer could skim spots? N6TV has done an analysis of period including the CQ WW CW contest. Short answer: 171 Skimmers skimmed 7 million spots. What may be even more interesting is the calculation of the signal to noise ratio for each of the skimmers. Check out the article for the gritty details

<http://reversebeacon.blogspot.com/2015/12/2015-cqww-cw-stats-and-trivia.html>

Word to the Wise

Spudger - a tool for use with small electronic devices to assist with device opening, adjusting or other tasks. The ones I used recently to repair a cellular phone were made of plastic, though other materials are used.

Operating Tip

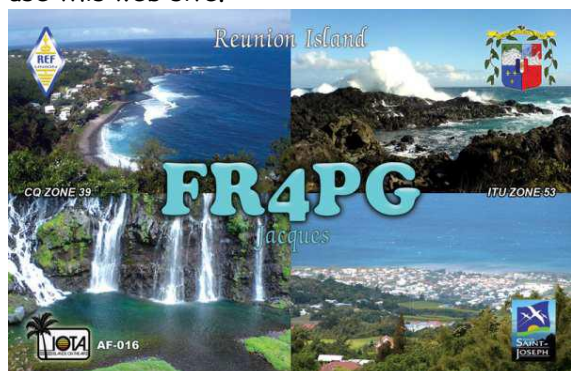
Rather than copying CW one letter at a time, gaining word fluency is essential for higher speeds. On the Elecraft email reflector, Josh, W6XU commented, "I can do fine running contest exchanges at 30 - 35 wpm, but my conversational CW is very poor. Here's my approach to work on this ... I put together a list of some Q-codes, common CW abbreviations and the CW academy list of 100 most common words. Then loaded them as "call signs" in RufzXP. Works great! Now to keep up 10+ minutes per day of practice with the goal of recognising these as words rather than individual characters."

Local QRM

Wolf, DK2OM, on behalf of the IARU, has compiled a document with spectrum displays of RFI (PDF) for various interfering devices, along with links to sound files to help identify these sources. www.iarums-r1.org/iarums/localqrm.pdf

Technical Web Site of the Week

<http://everytimezone.com/>. You do not need to do the math to figure out the time in Rio (or any other time zone) if you use this web site.



African DX

Togo, 5V. Wim, ON6DX, will once again be active as 5V7TH from Agbodrafo, a town in southern Togo, between 10 and 22 February (approx.). His exact dates have not yet been confirmed. Wim will arrive in Lomé, the capital of Togo, on 9 February. He states that this will be a one operator DXpedition. Activity will take place during his local mornings

and evenings as much as possible. Operation will be on 40 to 6 metres, including 30, 17 and 12 metres) using CW, SSB and RTTY. Suggested frequencies are available on the Web page. For more details and updates, see <http://www.dxpediton.be/5V7TH.html>.

Kenya, 5Z. George, WF3U, is expected to be active as 5Z4/WF3U from Nairobi until 29 February. Bands and modes of activity were not provided. QSL via his home call sign, direct, by the Bureau, LoTW or eQSL.

Kenya, 5Z. Bertrand, DF3FS, will once again be active as 5Z4/DF3FS from Diani Beach (40 km south of Mombasa) from between 23 January and 7 February. Activity will be holiday style on the HF bands using CW and SSB, with a focus on North America. Antennas will be a SP7IDX Hexbeam for 20 to 10 m and a 30 m vertical. He will also have an amp. QSL via DF3FS, direct (see details on Web page) or by the Bureau. He has a Web page at www.df3fs.de/5z-2016/index.html

Lesotho, 7P. Members of the F6KOP Amateur Radio Club announced that they would be active as 7P8C from the Maseru District in Lesotho between 8 and 17 February. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY, with 5 stations on the air. More details will be forthcoming as well as a web page.

African Islands

IOTA frequencies

CW: 28 040 24 920 21 040 18 098 14 040 10 114 7 030 3 530 kHz

SSB: 28 560 28 460 24 950 21 260 18 128 14 260 7 055 3 760 kHz

Mauritius, 3B8. Jean-Paul, HB9ARY, will once again be active as 3B8HC from Mauritius (AF-049) between 23 January and 8 February. Activity will be holiday style on 80 to 6 metres (focus on 80 m), using mainly SSB, but with some slow CW. Jean-Paul will use an Elevated Delta-Loop for 80 to 30 metres along with his folded HexBeam for 20, 17,

15, 12, 10 and 6 metres. QSL via NI5DX direct.

Ramsey Kits Calls it Quits

The ARRL report after more than 40 years as a purveyor of inexpensive electronics kits for hobbyists, the Ramsey Hobby Kits group has thrown in the towel, effective on 1 January.

The Ramsey RF Test Equipment Group is unaffected by this change.

"We end our heritage with a smile, not a frown, and say thank you, to all our customers and fellow hobbyists," Ramsey's announcement said.

The Victor, New York, company sold a wide array of hobby kits over the years, starting with its LED Blinky kit in the 1970s and eventually including simple amateur radio transmitters and receivers, aircraft band receivers, and other devices. Ramsey kits were frequently available at hamfests.

Read the ARRL story at www.arrl.org/news/ramsey-kits-calls-it-quits
Ramsey announcement
www.ramseyelectronics.com/ce.htm

Free version of QSO Secretary for Android available now!

Going on a 'field day', SOTA or WFF expedition? On the other hand, maybe making a casual QSO in the backyard? Try this free application! It has a bit limited functionality, but still providing all needed functions:

- Log QSOs
- Check previous contacts with any given station
- Enter the prefix and get ITU, CQ, territory, DXCC Country, azimuth, distance and local time
- Calculate your grid square
- Get UTC time for present position
- Import/export of ADIF files from/to PC logs or other online services.

The logging utility makes use of a simple user-friendly onscreen experience to reduce the number of actions required for working with your contact details. In profile

settings, you can select most used modes and bands, which will then be displayed on the QSO details entry form.

If the android smartphone or tablet is held horizontally, more information can be displayed about the contact including QTH, grid square, etc.

It is as easy to use as pen and paper, just enter the call sign the app will do the rest.

App web site:

<http://qsosecretary.blogspot.se/>

Play store:

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.qsosecretary.qsosecretaryfree>



Contest Calendar

This week's contests as compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 11 to 18 January 2016

NAQCC CW Sprint

01:30 - 03:30 UTC 13 January

Mode: CW

Bands: 160 m Only

Classes: (none)

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country and NAQCC no or power

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with non-member; 2 points per QSO with member

Multipliers: Each state, province or country once

Key Type Mult: 2 x if straight key, 1,5 x if bug, 1 x if other

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults x key type mult

Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 16 January 2016

E-mail logs to: naqcc33@windstream.net
Upload log at:
<http://naqcc.info/sprintlog.html>
Mail logs to: John Shannon, K3WWP, 478 E.
High St., Kittanning, PA 16201, USA
Find rules at:
http://naqcc.info/sprint201601_160.html

QRP Fox Hunt
02:00 - 03:30 UTC 13 January
Mode: CW
Bands: 40 m Only
Classes: Single Op - fox or hound
Max power: 5 watts
Exchange: RST and state, province or country and name and power output
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 03:30 UTC 14 January 2016
E-mail logs to: (see rules)
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter_rules.htm

Phone Fray
02:30 - 03:00 UTC 13 January
Mode: SSB
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 m
Classes: Single Op
Max power: 100 watts
Exchange: NA: Name and state, province or country; non-NA: Name
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station
Multipliers: Each US state (including KH6/KL7) once per band; Each VE province/territory once per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 03:00 UTC 15 January 2016
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at:
<http://www.3830scores.com>

Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.perluma.com/Phone_Fray_Contest_Rules.pdf

CWops Mini-CWT Test
13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 13 January and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 14 January
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high
Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts;
QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: Member: Name and member no; non-Member: Name and state, province or country
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: Each call once
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 04:00 UTC 16 January 2016
Post log summary at:
<http://www.3830scores.com>
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
<http://www.cwops.org/cwt.html>

AWA Linc Cundall Memorial CW Contest
23:00 UTC 13 January to 23:00 UTC 14 January and 23:00 UTC 16 January to 23:00 UTC 17 January
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40 m
Classes: (none)
Exchange: RST, Eqpt Year and Input Power (see rules for format)
QSO Points: (see rules)
Multipliers: (see rules)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 14 February 2016
E-mail logs to: (none)
Mail logs to: Tim Walker, 19 Woodside Ave., Westport, CT 06880, USA
Find rules at:
<http://www.antiquewireless.org/awa-linc-cundall-memorial-cw-contest.html>

NCCC RTTY Sprint

01:45 - 02:15 UTC 15 January
Mode: RTTY
Bands: (see rules)
Classes: (none)
Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 17 January 2016
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at:
<http://www.3830scores.com/>
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
<http://www.ncccsprint.com/rtty.html>

QRP Fox Hunt
02:00 - 03:30 UTC 15 January
Mode: CW
Bands: 80 m Only
Classes: Single Op - fox or hound
Max power: 5 watts
Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and power output
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 03:30 UTC 16 January 2016
E-mail logs to: (see rules)
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter_rules.htm

NCCC Sprint Ladder
02:30 - 03:00 UTC 15 January
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 m
Classes: Single Op
Max power: 100 watts
Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station
Multipliers: Each US state (including KL7 and KH6) once per band; Each VE province once per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 17 January 2016
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at:
<http://www.3830scores.com>
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
<http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html>

LZ Open Contest
18:00 - 22:00 UTC 15 January
Mode: CW
Bands: 80, 40 m
Classes: Single Op - high, low or QRP; Multi-Op
Max power: QRP: 5 W
Exchange: 3-digit serial no and 3-digit serial no received from last QSO
Work stations: Once each 30 minutes
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 25 January 2016
E-mail logs to: LZ1GL@yahoo.com
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: <http://www.lzopen.com/lz-open-contest/rules/rulesF.htm>

Hungarian DX Contest
12:00 UTC 16 January to 11:59 UTC 17 January
Mode: CW, SSB
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op All Band - CW or SSB - low or high; Single Op All Band Mixed - QRP, low or high; Single Op Single Band - mixed, CW or SSB - low or high; Multi-Single - low or high; Multi-Multi; SWL
Max power: HP: 1 500 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 10 watts
Exchange: HA: RS(T) 2-letter county or HA-DXC member no; non-HA: RS(T) and serial no
Work stations: Once per band per mode
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with same country; 1 point per QSO with different country, same continent; 3 points per QSO with different continent; 6 points per QSO with HA station

Multipliers: Hungarian counties, once per band; HA-DXC member numbers, once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 25 January 2016

E-mail logs to: hadx@mrasz.axelero.net

Upload log at: <http://www.ha-dx.com/HADX/>

Mail logs to: MRASZ, 1400 Budapest, PO Box 11, Hungary

Find rules at:

www.ha-dx.com/HADX/html/rules_en.html

North American SSB QSO Party

18:00 UTC 16 January to 05:59 UTC 17 January

Mode: SSB

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op - QRP or low; Multi-Two - low

Max operating hours: Single Op: 10 hours; Multi-Two: 12 hours

Max power: LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: NA: Name and state, province or country; non-NA: Name

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station

Multipliers: Each US state (including KH6/KL7) once per band; Each VE province/territory once per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 05:59 UTC 24 January 2016

E-mail logs to: (none)

Upload log at:

<http://www.ncjweb.com/naqplgsubmit/>

Mail logs to: Bill Lippert, ACOW, 2013 6th Avenue SE, Austin, MN 55912-4321, USA

Find rules at:

<http://www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf>

Feld Hell Sprint

20:00 - 23:59 UTC 16 January (EU/AF/Mid East) and 23:00 UTC 16 January to 02:59 UTC 17 January (E NA/SA/Carib) and 02:00 - 05:59 UTC 17 January (W NA/AS/OC)

Mode: Feld Hell

Bands: 160, 80, 40 m

Classes: (none)

Max power: Standard: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: (see rules)

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: (see rules)

Bonus Points: (see rules)

Multipliers: (see rules)

Score Calculation: (see rules)

Submit logs by: 23 January 2016

Upload log at:

<https://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<https://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub/Home/contests/sprints/low-down-sprint>

Run for the Bacon QRP Contest

02:00 - 04:00 UTC 18 January

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Band; All Band

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country and member no or power

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with non-member; 3 points per QSO with member on same continent; 5 points per QSO with member on different continent

Multipliers: Each state, province or country once Multiply mults by 2 if >50 members worked

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 24 January 2016

E-mail logs to: (none)

Upload log at:

<http://fpqrp.org/pigrun/autolog.php>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://fpqrp.org/pigrun/>

Next Week's Contest

QRP Fox Hunt, 02:00 - 03:30 UTC 20 January

Phone Fray, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 20 January

CWops Mini-CWT Test, 13:00 - 14:00 UTC
and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 20 January and 03:00
- 04:00 UTC 21 January
NAQCC CW Sprint, 01:30 - 03:30 UTC 21
January
NCCC RTTY Sprint, 01:45 - 02:15 UTC 22
January
QRP Fox Hunt, 02:00 - 03:30 UTC 22 Janu-
ary
NCCC Sprint Ladder, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 22
January
YL-ISSB QSO Party, CW/SSB, 00:00 UTC
23 January to 23:59 UTC 24 January
Montana QSO Party, 00:00 - 24:00 UTC 23
January
BARTG RTTY Sprint, 12:00 UTC 23 January
to 12:00 UTC 24 January
UK/EI DX Contest, CW, 12:00 UTC 23 Janu-
ary to 12:00 UTC 24 January
WAB 1.8 MHz Phone, 19:00 - 23:00 UTC 23
January
QRP ARCI Fireside SSB Sprint, 20:00 -
23:59 UTC 24 January

Items used with acknowledgement to the
ARRL Letter, the ARRL DX News, the ARRL
Contest Update, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bul-
letin, DXNL Newsletter, WIA-News, the
RSGB News, DxCoffee, Southgate ARC
News, DX World and the Amateur Radio
Newsletter

